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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/826,998

04/19/2004

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EXAMINER

SNEED, KWELLI D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

4172

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/31/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/826,998

Applicant(s)

FUSE ET AL.

Examiner

Kwelli D. Sneed

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14April2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>April 09, 2004</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Note to Applicant

Computerized billing and payment systems and methodologies where billing information has the capability of being consolidated based on parameters and/or set preferences and made available electronically has been existence prior to April 4, 2004. For the purpose of examination, the Examiner viewed all disclosed prior art by the applicant and made the following recommendations:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lamm et al (US Patent Number 6,078,907), and further in view of Crooks et al (US Patent Number 5,943,650).

As per Claim 1, Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907, discloses an accounting system comprising a bill issuing device and bill receiving device, The bill issuing device is connected to a database and includes:

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A first receiving device for appropriation in consolidated accounting and billing data not for appropriation in consolidated accounting, see (Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; Col. 4, lines 10-14);

An entry unit operable to enter the received billing data in the database see (Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; Col. 4, lines 33-39);

An extraction unit operable to extract billing data, see (Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; column 4, lines 44-50).

An output unit operable to output extracting billing data to the bill- receiving device, see (Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; col. 4, lines 44-50).

An exclusion unit operable to clear specified billing data entered in the database, as billing data not for appropriation, and to exclude the specified billing data that has not been cleared from being appropriated, see (Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; Col. 4, lines 17-20).

However, Lamm does not specifically disclose a bill-receiving device including: a second receiving unit operable to receive the billing data outputted from the bill- issuing device. Crooks' does disclose a bill-receiving device including: a second receiving unit operable to receive the billing data outputted from the bill- issuing device see (Crooks: US Patent 5,943,650; col. 4, lines 55-63).

Lamm does not specifically disclose a notification unit operable to receive billing data outputted from the bill- issuing device of the receipt of the billing data, wherein the exclusion unit excludes the billing data whose receipt is notified, as the specified billing

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data. Crooks does disclose a notification unit operable to receive billing data outputted from the bill-issuing device, the exclusion unit excludes the billing data whose receipt is notified, as the specified billing data, see (Crooks: US Patent 5,943,650; Col. 5, lines 3-5, 8-11 and Col. 6; lines 27-33).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the invention set forth by Lamm with the invention set forth by Crooks to decrease the time intensive laborious undertaking of receiving, reviewing, tracking and paying bills and improve the billing and payment system by automating the process and allowing the billable entity to be notified and receive billing information through electronic access and authorize payment of amount due, through electronic means and in real time.

As per Claim 2, Lamm does not disclose an accounting system comprising a calculation device operable to calculate a consolidated accounting amount, based on the billing data entered in the database not excluded by the exclusion unit from being appropriated. Crooks: US Patent 5,943,650; discloses an accounting system comprising a calculation device operable to calculate a consolidated accounting amount, based on the billing data entered in the database not excluded by the exclusion unit from being appropriated, see (Crooks: US Patent 5,943,650; col. 6, lines 9-13 and lines 37-40).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the invention set forth by Lamm with the invention set forth by Crooks in order to process the billing information to the billable entity in the most accurate form and enable the customer to accurately pay each billing entity.

As per Claim 3, Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; discloses an accounting system wherein the bill issuing and the bill receiving device are connected by telecommunication circuit, see (Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; col. 3, lines 64-67); The extraction unit includes a judgment subunit operable to judge whether received billing data is for appropriation (Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; Col. 4, lines 44-50).

As per Claim 4, Lamm does not disclose correspondence between a biller and a billee that are targeted for consolidated accounting and the judgment subunit judges received billing data to be not for appropriation if the biller and billee of the billing data are shown in the exclusion list.

Crooks US Patent Number 5,943,656); discloses an accounting system wherein the database stores an exclusion list showing a correspondence between a biller and a billee that are targeted for consolidated accounting and the judgment subunit judges received billing data to be not for appropriation if the biller and billee of the billing data are shown in the exclusion list see, (Crooks: US Patent 5,943,650; col. 6, lines 45-47 and Col. 7 lines 34-37).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the inventions set forth by Lamm and Crooks due to the fact that a relationship existed between the billing entity and the billable entity when services or goods were exchanged. The accounting process is a means of quality assurance to ensure that consolidated amount is accurate. If inaccuracy is detected or if the billing information fails to successfully satisfy all set parameters, that billing information should be excluded until the detected inaccuracy is resolved.

As per Claim 5, Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; discloses an accounting system wherein the notification unit performs the notification online in real time, see (Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; Col. 6, lines 54-59).

As per claim 6, Lamm does not specifically disclose an accounting system comprising a bill issuing device connected to a first database, a server connected to a second database that stores an exclusion list showing a correspondence between a biller and a billee that are not targeted for consolidated accounting.

Crooks: US Patent 5,943,650, discloses an accounting system comprising a bill issuing device connected to a first database, a server connected to a second database that stores an exclusion list showing a correspondence between a biller and a billee that are not targeted for consolidated accounting, see, (Crooks: US Patent 5,943,650; Col. 6, lines 45-47 and Col. 7 lines 34-37).

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Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907, disclose an first receiving device for appropriation in consolidated accounting, see (Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; column 4, lines 10-14); an first transmission unit operable to transmit received billing data to the server, see (Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; column 4, lines 10-14); an exclusion unit operable to clear specified billing data entered in the database, as billing data not for appropriation, and to exclude the specified billing data that has not been cleared from being appropriated, see (Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; Col. 4, lines 17-20); the server including

Lamm: US Patent Number 6,078,907; discloses a second transmission unit operable to transmit the received billing data to the bill- receiving device if judged to be not for appropriation, see (Col.8, lines 4-12 and Col. 7, lines 34-37).

Crooks' does disclose a bill-receiving device including: a second receiving unit operable to receive the billing data outputted from the bill- issuing device see, (Crooks: US Patent 5,943,650; col. 4, lines 55-63); A judgment unit operable to judge whether the received billing data is for appropriation, depending on whether the biller and billee of the billing data are shown in the exclusion list, see (Crooks: US Patent 5,943,650; Col. 6 lines 55-63);

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the invention set forth by Lamm with the invention set forth by Crooks to decrease the time intensive laborious undertaking of receiving, reviewing, tracking and paying bills and improve the billing and payment system by automating the

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process and allowing the billable entity to be notified and receive billing information through electronic access and authorize payment of amount due, through electronic means and in real time.

As per Claim 7, Lamm et al does not disclose an accounting system comprising a calculation device operable to calculate a consolidated accounting amount based on billing data entered.

Crooks et al discloses, an accounting system comprising a calculation device operable to calculate a consolidated accounting amount based on billing data entered see (US Patent Number 5943656, Col. 6, lines 10-13 an 15).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the invention set forth by Lamm with the invention set forth by Crooks in order to process the billing information to the billable entity in the most accurate form and enable the customer to accurately pay each billing entity.

As per Claim 8, Lamm discloses an bill-issuing device comprising the server and the bill-receiving device are connected via a telecommunication circuit, see (US patent 6078907, Col. 3, lines 64-68); and the transmission unit transmits online to the bill receiving device, see US Patent 6078907, Col. 4, lines 1-5).

As per Claim 9, Lamm discloses an accounting system wherein the notification unit performs the notification on line, see (US Patent 6078907, Col. 6, lines 54-59).

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As per Claim 10, Lamm discloses a system wherein the bill issuing device and the bill receiving device are each a plurality of communication terminals operable to intercommunicate via a telecommunication circuit, see (US Patent 6078907, Col. 2, lines 10-20.)

As per Claim 11, Lamm does not disclose a bill-issuing device further including a calculation unit operable to calculate a consolidated accounting amount based on billing data entered.

Crooks (US Patent Number 5943656) discloses an bill-issuing device further including a calculation unit operable to calculate a consolidated accounting amount based on billing data entered, see (US Patent Number 5943656, Col. 6, Lines 10-12 and 15.)

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the invention set forth by Lamm with the invention set forth by Crooks in order to process the billing information to the billable entity in the most accurate form and enable the customer to accurately pay each billing entity.

As per Claim 12, Lamm discloses a bill-receiving device that is connected to a database and receives billing data for appropriation in consolidated accounting and billing data not for appropriation in consolidated accounting comprising a first entry unit operable to enter received billing data not for appropriation in the database, see (US Patent Number 6078907, Col. 4, lines 9-14); and a second entry unit operable to enter

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approved billing data for appropriation in the database, see (US Patent Number 6078907, Col. 4, lines 43-47).

Lamm, does not disclose an exclusion unit operable to exclude billing data entered in the database from being appropriated and an approval unit operable to approve received billing data based on an input from a user.

Crooks, does disclose an exclusion unit operable to exclude billing data entered in the database from being appropriated (US Patent Number 5943656, Col. 5, lines 16-22) and an approval unit operable to approve received billing data based on an input from a user (US Patent Number 5943656, Col. 5, lines 30-35).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the inventions of Lamm and Crooks to set parameters to audit and/or determine processing measures and to allow disclosure of billing information that satisfy the parameters set and to exclude billing information that has not satisfied set parameters. This process allows and supports accuracy of the billing information being disclosed.

As per Claim 13, Lamm, discloses a method used by a bill-issuing device that extracts billing data not for appropriation, see (US Patent Number (6078907, Col. 4, lines 39-44); an outputting process for the extracted billing data, see (US Patent 6078907, Col. 4, lines 44-46).

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Lamm, does not specifically disclose a receiving input for billing data for appropriation in consolidated accounting and clearing outputted billing data.

Crooks, discloses a receiving input for billing data for appropriation in consolidated accounting and clearing outputted billing data, see (US Patent Number 5943656, Abstract, lines 12-16).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the inventions set forth by Lamm and Crooks to allow the consolidated information to be received by the billable entity once billing information has been scrutinized by set parameters.

As per Claim 14, Lamm, discloses a method used by a bill-issuing device that extracts billing data not for appropriation, see (US Patent Number (6078907, Col. 4, lines 39-44); an outputting process for the extracted billing data, see (US Patent 6078907, Col. 4, lines 44-46).

Lamm, does not specifically disclose a receiving input for billing data for appropriation in consolidated accounting and clearing outputted billing data.

Crooks, discloses a receiving input for billing data for appropriation in consolidated accounting and clearing outputted billing data, see (US Patent Number 5943656, Abstract, lines 12-16).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the inventions set forth by Lamm and Crooks to allow the

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consolidated information to be received by the billable entity once billing information has been scrutinized by set parameters.

As per Claim 15, Lamm et al discloses computer readable recording medium connected to a database including a bill issuing program comprising: a receiving input for billing data, see, Lamm (US Patent Number 60789074, Col. 4, lines 10-14); extracting billing data to the bill -receiving device, see (US Patent Number 60789074, Col. 4, lines 38-39); outputting billing data, see Lam 6078907, Col. 4, lines 44-46); clearing outputted extracted billing data, see, Lamm (US Patent Number 6078907, Col. 7, lines 19-24.)

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Conclusion

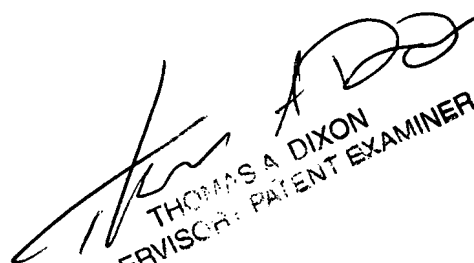
Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Kwelli D. Sneed whose telephone number is (571) 270-3446. The examiner can normally be reached Monday –Thursday 7:00 am 4:40 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas A. Dixon can be reached on (571) 272-6708.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status Information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. Should you have any questions about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kwelli Sneed

Examiner

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THOMAS A. DIXON
SUPERVISOR: PATENT EXAMINER